

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 15 September 2020

Present:-

Councillors Wilson (Convener), McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convener), Booth (substituting for Councillor Rae), Brown, Doran, Key, Mitchell, Osler, Staniforth (items 1-4 and 6-11) and Webber (substituting for Councillor Doggart).

1. Culture Map - Morgan Currie, The University of Edinburgh – Presentation

Morgan Currie from Edinburgh University gave a presentation on the Culture and Communities Mapping Project. She indicated that this project started in 2018, in response to Edinburgh's international reputation as a cultural hub. They wanted a map to highlight cultural centres outwith the city centre but were special to their particular neighbourhoods. She started by looking at other hubs such as Los Angeles and London. These were undertaken by city agencies without much input from the public. By contrast, they wanted to take a participatory approach. She then outlined the methods that were employed, the outcomes achieved and the function of the Culture Map,

She concluded by indicating that this was a work in progress, which allowed people to make suggestions and that they were open to feedback.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To note that the presenter invited all parties who wanted to participate in the Culture Map to contact her.

2. Work Programme

The Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of:
Action 16 – Internal Audit – Localities Operating Model.
- 2) To update the rolling actions log to reflect decisions taken at this meeting and otherwise note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the information set out in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To provide a briefing notes to Elected Members, in relation to the proposed opening of sports facilities for community use.
- 3) To note that the timescale for the re-opening of libraries should be accelerated as much as possible and that this timescale be circulated to members as soon as possible.
- 4) To note that there should be improved communication to all parties about the timescales for the re-opening of the libraries.
- 5) To provide clarification on the process for reviewing Living Landscapes and new sites for meadows and to improve lines of communication.
- 6) To consider having a city-wide system for constituents to suggest sites for meadows.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Osler and Staniforth declared non-financial interests in the above item as they were board members for Edinburgh Leisure.

5. Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme

(a) Deputation – Scottish Tourist Guides' Association

The Scottish Tourist Guides Association provided a written deputation in respect of the Cemetery Tour Operators Registration Scheme 2020. They indicated that they were writing in respect to the proposed scheme for Cemetery Tour Operators.

STGA (Scottish Tourist Guides Association) and Mercat Tours had a long working relationship and both organisations fully understood the need for this scheme. With the aim to support a successful scheme, they would like to raise a number of questions with regards to the implementation and potential partiality

which could jeopardize the intention behind the proposal. These included the following:

- How would the scheme be managed on a day to day basis? Would there be attendants on site ensuring the code of conduct was adhered to and all guides were part of the scheme?
- Would all tour operators, from all countries, be obliged to be part of the scheme? If so, how would this be managed?
- How would the Code of Conduct and registration fee be applied to operators not using CEC cemeteries? Presumably this was further revenue the Council would welcome and drive up quality of experience for all, whilst avoiding a '2 tier', biased approach to businesses.
- STGA guides were self-employed. Most would be taking tours on behalf of a tour operator as part of itinerary. Some would be working as driver guides for small parties or their own tours. Could STGA members, wearing an easily recognisable badge be included with one payment from STGA of £175?

Both Mercat Tours and STGA understood the need to control and management of visitor numbers to Cemetery sites and were supportive of the Council's action with this scheme. STGA would welcome the opportunity of a representative from their professional organisations to discuss these points of concern they had.

Decision

- 1) Agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) Committee Services to write to the deputation confirming the decisions relating to the item.

(b) Report by the Executive Director of Space

It was reported that Council cemeteries were poignant places of reflection and remembrance. But they also offered a haven for wildlife and fauna as part of the City's green environment which many had discovered using their greenspace for exercise during Covid-19 restrictions.

Details were provided the five historic city centre graveyards. These required extensive ongoing conservation and maintenance to keep them safe, they were also popular with visitors, with around 600,000 to 700,000 people visiting Greyfriars Cemetery annually. Organised walking tours charged between £10 to £20 per person and currently there was no contribution by these commercial enterprises to the maintenance of the cemeteries.

It was proposed in the report by the Executive Director for Place that a Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme be introduced which included a donation towards the maintenance of cemeteries.

Motion

- 1) To notes the contents of the report.
 - 2) To approve that a Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme be introduced with a code of conduct and request for a donated contribution to cemetery maintenance.
- Moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

Amendment

- 1) To note the contents of the report.
 - 2) To note concerns raised by several Friends of Cemetery Groups, like Newington and Warriston, as to the possible unintended impact that this scheme could have upon these voluntary groups.
 - 3) To note also a series of questions that were also raised by Edinburgh Walks that needed clarification.
 - 4) To therefore defer adoption to the Scheme seeking instead a meeting with representatives of Friends of Cemetery Groups and tour operators to discuss these concerns and clarifications.
 - 5) An update should then be provided within 2 cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration of the approval of the Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme.
 - 6) Should approval be given, an appraisal and further round table involving stakeholders should take place 12 months from adoption of the scheme.
- Moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

In accordance with Standing Order 21 (11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report.
- 2) To note concerns raised by several Friends of Cemetery Groups, like Newington and Warriston, as to the possible unintended impact that this scheme could have upon these voluntary groups.
- 3) To note also a series of questions that were also raised by Edinburgh Walks that needed clarification.
- 4) To therefore defer adoption to the Scheme seeking instead a meeting with representatives of Friends of Cemetery Groups and tour operators to discuss these concerns and clarifications.
- 5) An update should then be provided within 2 cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration of the approval of the Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme.
- 6) Should approval be given, an appraisal and further round table involving stakeholders should take place 12 months from adoption of the scheme.

- 7) For Members to advise Robbie Beattie of any individuals with whom the previous consultation may not have reached.
- 8) For Paul Laurence to discuss the scheme with Visit Scotland to ensure all parties had been consulted with.
- 9) To note that by advising respective parties of the scheme that this would be a mechanism to ensure maximum compliance.
- 10) To ensure that answers to the questions raised at Committee on this item were e-mailed to all elected members on the Committee.
- 11) To provide a FAQs document for those signing up to the scheme.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Staniforth declared a financial interest in the above item as he had been a tour guide and might be in the in the future, he left the room and took no part in the deliberations in this item.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

6. War Memorial, City Chambers

The report by the Executive Director for Place responded to the amended motion from the City of Edinburgh Council meeting on 21 November 2019 on the War Memorial at the City Chambers.

Decision

- 1) To commission a design solution to protect the memorial from inappropriate use that ensured it remained a place for remembrance and respect.
- 2) To remove the metal barriers in the meantime and continue with the active policing of the memorial by the City Chambers security staff.

(References – Act of Council No. 17 of 21 November 2019; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

7. Appointments to Working Groups 2020/21

The Culture and Communities Committee was required to appoint the membership of its working groups for 2020/21. The proposed membership structures and remits of each were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive.

Decision

- 1) To appoint the membership of the working groups as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note that the Graffiti Working Group had concluded.
- 3) To provide an update on the Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium Working Group.

- 4) To consider the ongoing relevance of each of the Working Groups which the committee had agreed to reappoint, with each of the Working Group Chairs.
- 5) To provide an update report for Committee in November 2020.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee 10 September 2019 (item 12); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. Edinburgh's Joint Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023

It was reported that the new Community Safety Strategy developed to replace the current Antisocial Behaviour Strategy covered the years 2020 to 2023. Plans for a formal launch in April 2020 were suspended due to re-provisioning of activity, officers and resources in response to Covid-19, however some of the actions outlined under each priority had been progressed.

The report by the Executive Director of Place provided the Committee with an overview of the strategy (that was agreed by members of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership on the 3rd March 2020) and an update on some of the key actions progressed to date.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report and the new Joint Community Safety Strategy 2020 – 2023 (appendix 1 of the report).
- 2) To thank the officers for their work on the Joint Strategy.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

9 Museums and Galleries – Report on Extended Opening Hours

In October 2016 the Museums and Galleries Service implemented a change to opening hours to six of its museums and galleries in response to the Council's Transformation programme, moving from a six and seven day a week operation to five days a week throughout the year.

Following a review of opening hours the Culture and Communities Committee agreed on 20 March 2018 to extend opening hours to seven days a week, 10.00am – 5.00pm from 1 June 2018 for a one-year pilot. A progress report was submitted to the Committee on 29 January 2019 for review after six months of operation and agreed the continuation of seven days a week opening.

The report by the Executive Director of Place summarised the positive impact of seven days a week opening for the period 2019-2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Decision

- 1) To note the success of opening Museum venues seven days a week and the positive impact this had on visitor numbers, income and reputation pre-Covid-19.
- 2) To note the success of the externally funded schools programme at the City Art Centre.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 30 January 2018 (item 8) and 29 January 2019 (item 11); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

10. Fields in Trust Minute of Agreement for Marchbank Park

The report by the Executive Director of Place fulfilled the Motion by Councillor Gardiner seeking information to enable Elected Members to consider pursuing a Minute of Agreement with Fields in Trust.

Motion

To support the execution of a Minute of Agreement with Fields in Trust to protect Marchbank Park as recreational open spaces for current and future generations.

- Moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

Amendment

- 1) To support the execution of a Minute of Agreement with Fields in Trust to protect Marchbank Park as recreational open spaces for current and future generations.
- 2) To recognise the significant level of community engagement through surveys and local awareness campaigns that was being carried out by Balerno Village Trust (BVT) and Balerno Community Council (BCC) and thank them for providing regular local updates to the local ward members.
- 3) To agree to confirm with BVT and BCC, at the earliest opportunity, the key contact within the Place Directorate that would be responsible for taking forward and executing the Minute of Agreement.

- Moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Mitchell.

In accordance with Standing Order 22 (12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To support the execution of a Minute of Agreement with Fields in Trust to protect Marchbank Park as recreational open spaces for current and future generations.
- 2) To recognise the significant level of community engagement through surveys and local awareness campaigns that was being carried out by Balerno Village Trust (BVT) and Balerno Community Council (BCC) and thank them for providing regular local updates to the local ward members.
- 3) To agree to confirm with BVT and BCC, at the earliest opportunity, the key contact within the Place Directorate that would be responsible for taking forward and executing the Minute of Agreement.
- 4) To nominate a point of contact with whom members of the local community could liaise.

(References – Act of Council No. 11 of 28 July 2020; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Graffiti Strategy for Edinburgh

An update was provided on the actions taken and strategy proposals following the Graffiti Working Group Findings Report, considered in January 2019.

Decision

- 1) To note the current resources allocated to graffiti removal alongside other duties.
- 2) To note the details provided on the Legal position in respect of Graffiti removal.
- 3) To approve the Graffiti Management Strategy and Policy.
- 4) To note the estimated cost of a dedicated graffiti removal team and agree to consider this cost as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22.
- 5) To ensure that there was clarification on Council Policy in relation to graffiti.
- 6) To provide a mechanism to ensure that street art was not mistaken for graffiti and removed in collaboration with the Council's culture service.
- 7) To review the processes in place for the provision of graffiti removal kits, to community groups, to ensure safety and to have this signposted on the Council's website.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 29 January 2019 (item 14); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)